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Writings on privacy indicated that values placed on the subject vary with the individual, his age, social status, and position in the family. Individual privacy is considered particularly important for children and adolescents. Also, married couples and elderly people need privacy from other family members, particularly children. The value of privacy increases as a person goes up the social ladder.

Privacy is recognized as being necessary for maturation and mental development, creativity, and individual well being. The historical development of housing design revealed that the arrangement and separation of spaces within a dwelling, as well as the sound insulation of certain spaces, promoted or deterred the achievement of privacy. Residential dwellings emphasizing open planning were found to lessen opportunities for individual and family privacy.

Sleeping and personal hygiene areas were found to be the fundamental spaces where privacy was sought. Planning for outdoor privacy was found to increase the family living space through orientation, landscape design, and various sight barriers.

The trend toward oversocialization in the American culture was reported to lessen opportunities for privacy. Because of the increase in population and the growth of the housing industry, individual and family needs for privacy were found to be considered less important

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than planning for open spaces, while planning for privacy rather than open spaces was considered more important to the fulfillment of the individual.

Elizabeth M. S. S. S.

A Thesis Submitted to
the Faculty of the Graduate School of
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science

Greensboro

May, 1967

Approved by

W. R. Ridd

PRIVACY IN AMERICAN INTERIORS

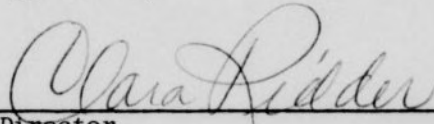
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INTRODUCTION

Privacy in housing determines, in part, the well-being of those within the dwelling. It is generally recognized as an important component in the life of each individual and of each family. Most writers report that privacy is a necessity, but the subtlety of the subject has caused discussion of its elements and tangents often to be referred to vaguely, omitted, or left to the imagination. The concept of privacy has psychological and sociological overtones. It is important to mental hygiene and to creativity.

One generally wants to be alone to think. Before the era of crowded cities, when one had a place for meditation and intimate communication, privacy was probably taken for granted. Presently, in our society, where such a place is often impossible, or at least difficult to find, man consciously seeks to create for himself a place to meet his needs for privacy. If housing is to meet the needs of those who dwell within, means for securing adequate privacy must be determined and employed in design. The varying needs of families for privacy call for individual and specialized solutions. Consequently, the uniqueness of each family prohibits universal solutions for securing privacy.

Writers on the subject have varied ideas about what privacy is, the necessity of it, and how it might be achieved. It is the purpose of this work to relate selected excerpts on the subject of privacy to the field of housing design.

CHAPTER I

THE HISTORY OF PRIVACY IN AMERICAN FAMILY HOMES

Privacy in housing design has almost always been considered important. However, the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Greece, Crete, and Rome were housed in dwellings that had large and open spaces. People living in the warm Mediterranean climate probably sought freedom from sunlight and heat when they built structures with high ceilings and large open areas that would induce coolness. Albert Bemis related Bertha Rider's ideas that in Crete, "privacy was evidently no part of the scheme. The Cretan lived too fast and too intensely to feel the need of solitude, and there is hardly one room in the whole palace (of Knossos) scheme which is entirely cut off." (7:104.) Privacy to the Athenians, however, must have been considered important to the development of the intellect, for Bemis attributed the Cretan's apparent dislike of solitude as the reason its civilization did not equal that of Athens. (7:129.)

In England and on the Continent, it was not until the Middle Ages that privacy was recognized in housing design. Lewis Mumford reported:

The first radical change, which was to destroy the form of the medieval dwelling house, was the development of a sense of privacy. This meant, in effect, withdrawal at will from the common life and common interests of one's associates. Privacy in sleep: privacy in eating: privacy in religious and social ritual: finally privacy in thought. (24:40.)

Privacy in sleeping quarters developed first. It is probably curious to modern Americans that people in medieval dwellings all slept in one large

room, often several to a bed, with servants usually at the foot of the beds. It is well to remember, though, that central heating was unknown, and nights in northern England and Europe are quite cold except in summer months. The first privacy in the bedroom was achieved with the use of bed curtains. (24:41.)

Private rooms became differentiated from public rooms in the English manor houses built after the time of the Norman Conquest. Manor house plans until the fifteenth century include a "withdrawing room," or solar, located above the great hall, the largest central room. Solars were usually reached by a spiral stairway. This room was used as sleeping quarters for the family and guests, if there were any, and children were brought up there. (7:180.) The mid-fifteenth century manor houses, built about the time of the Wars of the Roses, had private bedrooms in their plans. There was a general development of more comfort and privacy for families during that time. (7:215.) During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, along with the development of secret passages, the invention of the corridor contributed a feature of housing design that is found in practically every dwelling built today. (7:228.)

The house prior to the sixteenth century performed several functions. Not only was it the place where family and household servants lived, but it was usually the center of all the family's activities. The women performed domestic duties, the children played and were schooled, and the men carried on the family trade all within the same dwelling. Often in town houses, the family workshop was on the street floor and living quarters were above.

The "private house" was initiated in the sixteenth century when the family business was divorced from living quarters. A hundred years later in the seventeenth century, Samuel Pepys wrote about the English home in his famous diary:

Generally there were no drawing rooms. The lady's bedroom was also her reception room for visitors. The master had a room where he kept his accounts, wrote his letters or his diary, smoked and drank with his friends....

The principal bedroom contained a highly ornamented four-poster.... The maidservant often slept in a truckle bed in the masters' rooms, leaving early to dress in the scullery The powder closet for the preparation of the wig was an important necessity. (7:244.)

Today it would be unthinkable to give priority to a room for the care of a wig over separate quarters for a maid!

Privacy as an element in housing design progressed in the seventeenth century. Rooms opened into each other less often than they opened along a corridor, "like houses on a street. The need for privacy produced this special organ for public circulation." (24:115.) Corridors were introduced a hundred years earlier during the reign of Elizabeth I (1558-1603), and by the seventeenth century, they were almost the rule in housing design rather than the exception. Mumford stated that doors were used in the seventeenth century, and actually separated individual family members from each other for the first time. (24:118.)

On the Continent the court was prominent in its influence, especially in France. Privacy within dwellings was an outcome of the new court habits, along with the esthetic improvement of manners and the new rules of conduct. The new code of manners for amatory youth created the term "courtship." (24:114.) As life in the court was glamorous and

filled with amorous opportunities, the new demands for privacy were quite comprehensible.

In England, house construction was well developed before the colonization of America, though little privacy was afforded. In British-American homes, "even the most pretentious dwellings were not divided into many rooms." (2:18, 19.) The better farm houses were just beginning to be divided into rooms when America was being settled. The barn had been split from the rest of the house, and the bedchamber was becoming a separate quarter. (23:26.) The Georgian style of architecture exhibited a trend toward privacy with division of rooms for various activities. It is well to note that, so far, rooms for activities have taken precedence over rooms for people. In the Federal period, family and servant's quarters were separated within the dwelling, giving evidence for group privacy. In the house of the Federal period, "there was even more specialization of rooms for various functions, and the design and furnishings of the room reflected its specific purpose." (10:19, 20.) In eighteenth century America, large houses in America were divided into more smaller rooms which probably secured more privacy. Smaller-scaled rooms with fireplaces replaced large, cold ones. Changes in furnishings followed the change in housing design; as bed curtains were no longer needed for privacy and warmth, the four poster replaced the traditional canopied bed. (2:180.) After the War Between the States, effects of the new ideals of prosperity and privacy were brought into focus. The concept of housing that arose sought to "provide a suitable environment for each individual in the household,"

an ideal that has persisted since. (2:137, 138.) During the Victorian period in America, the division of homes into many rooms indicated that privacy was valued as an element in design. Servants' quarters were well defined from the rest of the house. The parlor, trademark of the age, was the private room reserved for social intercourse. Kira reports that Victorians demanded privacy for bathing and elimination, but, "of course there was little that could be done to conceal the outdoor privy....although the walkway to it....was made as attractive as possible...."

(27:3.) The Victorian house, however, contributed more to the family's well-being than some other types of dwellings built in the nineteenth century. The tenements built in New York, for instance, are described by Mumford as being deplorable. They were more primitive than the farmhouses built in America's colonial period, and privacy was lacking. (23:110.) In Victorian housing, the hall no longer ran through the entire house, but became centralized with rooms adjoining it. The entrance hall, or lobby, the downstairs hall and the upstairs hall are products of design of this period, along with the idea for making halls accessible to each room. (2:137,138.)

Twentieth century housing in the United States reflects Victorian designs as well as those of other periods. Added to the old designs are the new, contemporary, open plans which allow diversified use of larger spaces. How "new" the open plan is, is questionable. The Greeks used a form of it centuries ago. The great wave of urbanization in this century has created problems in housing and design. Masses of people have accumulated in urban areas, and privacy has become more difficult to achieve.

(22:3.) Bemis divided present American dwellings into four general types: urban, suburban, rural, and country. (7:386.) Because of crowded conditions in cities, the lack of privacy is more evident. Slum areas and high-rise apartments alike share the inevitable products of the city: lack of privacy, crowded conditions, and excessive noise. These problems vary with location within the city, but nevertheless, they persist. Row houses in urban areas afford slightly more privacy than apartments, but common party walls give little accoustical privacy. (7:412.) The three-decker walk-up apartment is conducive to life that is "compact, clean, and farily comfortable. But it suffers from too many, but too-little-known neighbors, too much reliance on external diversion, too little quiet, too little thought, and not enough contact with nature...." (7:398.) These things that apartment living does not afford are vital parts of Chermayeff's "marvelous compound" - privacy. In the 1965 American Public Health Association Report on Family Living in High Rise Apartment Buildings, one of the generalizations was, "Ranks of pigeonhole dwellings close together make difficulties...for those who cherish privacy." It is logical to assume that the prevailing apartments today do not meet privacy needs any better.

Inadequate privacy has been recognized as a detriment to maturation, mental health, and morality. The Victorian idea of expanse in contemporary homes, with "few and very light rugs, drapes, and furniture is impossibly noisy and lacking in privacy." (21:280.) Some architects are aware of the lack of privacy afforded in today's open plan designs. Roger Yoshino and Susan Zurcher reported in the Arizona Review of Business

and Public Administration the paradox in adequate housing:

In planning for adequate housing, architects and builders are confronted with contradictory demands. There is a demand for more privacy, compelling builders to break down floor space into a number of smaller rooms. But the prevailing trend calls for larger living rooms and an easy flow between the home's center of activity and other parts of the house.

Lewis Mumford's skepticism of open planning is obvious:

...in throwing open our building to the daylight and the outdoors, we will forget, at our peril, the coordinate need for quiet, for darkness, for inner privacy, for retreat.... Today, the degradation of the inner life is symbolized by the fact that the only place secret from interruption is the private toilet. (24:129.)

Beyer reported in Housing and Society that privacy is one of the most important problems in architecture. Multi-purpose rooms, a popular feature of open planning, make privacy difficult to achieve. Such rooms may be satisfactorily used only when privacy and quiet are not required for simultaneous activities. (5:12.)

Winston Churchill once said we shape our buildings and then they shape us. As families must adjust to their living conditions, adequate housing should seek to make the adjustment easier. Design works from the inside out, rather than starting with a structural shell and fitting the family into it. By setting forth and planning for individual and family needs for privacy, there is easier adjustment and less compromise after construction. The sociology of families recognizes that each family is unique in its members, relationships, and activities. The nature of families seems to indicate that houses, reflecting family needs, would all be different. Unfortunately, in conventional designs, it is the family that has to compromise in living in a dwelling that

often does not meet its specific needs. Riemer has stated:

Housing involves a problem of social adjustment. The modern family is confronted with the task of fitting the routine of its private life into the physical shelter of its residential home.... The physical structure of the home is apt to have its bearing upon family solidarity as well as the individual's need for community institutions outside the family home. (29:272.)

Since planning is concerned with space, individual and family space for privacy should be of primary concern. Family functions that require visual or accoustical privacy or both should be carefully considered. Rooms are generally thought of as spaces for living. They should be equipped for "rest, relaxation, conversation, social intercourse; spaces for infants to toddle in and for runabout children to romp in; space for solitude as well as for socialability....so neither physically nor spiritually will the family have to live from hand to mouth." (25:268.) Privacy may also involve a conflict of space and time (28:135.) This is most obvious in today's houses where scheduling for use of the family bathroom is often determined by who leaves home first.

The architect or designer has a certain role to fulfill in planning a dwelling. He must compromise between privacy and space; his task is "to increase the opportunity for privacy - until the individual rooms have to be cut down to an undesirable size." (29:272) Research on minimum space requirements for one or more persons states that one may perform "basic household activities" in 400 square feet. Two people need 750 square feet; three people, 1,000 square feet, and four, 1,150 square feet. Little, if any, allowance for privacy is evident in these spatial requirements. (35:49.) Once the number and size of rooms have been

established, the architect must decide upon a floor plan with optimal room relationships.

Historically, the aspect of privacy from outside intrusion developed first. Later, private rooms were separated from public rooms in the house. The continuation of room separation eventually led to servants' quarters and family sleeping quarters. The corridor and the entrance hall further divided the dwelling. Planning and separating rooms for family members and their activities probably has been the most recent principle in achieving privacy in housing design.

CHAPTER II

CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHIES OF PRIVACY

In examining the concept of privacy as it relates to housing design, one must consider the uses of the home. It is primarily the family shelter; it is where the family lives and functions as a unit. Aside from serving these basic purposes, it is also, according to Allen Pond:

a workshop for the housewife, playground and study hall for the children, and principal recreational center for the family. It is a haven for the sick, a retreat for the elderly.
(26:158.)

Because the home is the shelter for the family, the family, in order to function as such, must be isolated from its environment to a degree. Privacy for the family, then, is essential to the well-being of the sociological unit. Literature on the subject varies in its definitions and its constituents of privacy. One thought seems to be generally acknowledged, however, and that is the recognition of the desire and necessity of having privacy.

Serge Chermayeff, noted architect and lecturer, defined the subject as "that marvelous compound of withdrawal, self-reliance, solitude, quiet contemplation, and concentration...." Housing standards and objectives proposed thirty-five years ago at the President's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership stated that the home should be "a place where each person may enjoy privacy, the opportunity to be alone, to invite one's soul, to grow according to the best that is in

one." (34:161.) Ideas of solitude are recognizable in both definitions, but the second one infers that privacy is necessary for maturation.

Robert Woods Kennedy cited the house as a receptacle to receive "the themes of living...love, sociability, privacy, self-expression, comfort, belongingness, and the like...." His conception of privacy is stated:

The state of being private cannot be disassociated from an activity. We conceive of the various things we do in houses as in a scale from most private to least private. While it is possible to classify the living functions in terms of privacy in a general way, a specific and universally applicable pigeonholing is not possible. Our conception of what is private is in a constant state of flux. (21:95.)

Philosophical adjuncts to privacy may relate to the feeling of shame, embarrassment, or guilt concerned with the body and its functions. It is also acknowledged that "privacy in certain circumstances appears to be a basic component in the development and maintenance of a person's sense of uniqueness and identity." (22:95.) The American Public Health Association recognizes that "it is regarded as being extremely important to most individuals to be entirely alone part of the time." (5:15.) Privacy as reverie is said to have negative as well as positive aspects; "physical environment most conducive to satisfying solitude and reverie is a non-human one, yet occupied by diverse nonhuman activities--sight, sounds, kinesthetic and olfactory impressions, organized in various changing harmonies and rhythms." (16:356.)

Privacy as a psychological necessity has been equated with needs for activity and quiet. Field stated there would be no greater boon than to have houses, regardless of price, provide "room to play and work

happily, room to enjoy rest and relaxation, and a little privacy when needed...." Privacy specifically within an interior is stated by Chermayeff as being "most urgently needed and most critical in the place where people live, be it house, apartment, or any other dwelling." (12:38.) Also concerned with the need for privacy, ample facilities for each family member's personal care must be provided as well as "a place for consultation where confabulation is encouraged." (2:165.) The essentials for obtaining this privacy are suggested relative to room arrangement and persons present who are not family members. Factors relating to congestion and sanitation "will be most telling in ascertaining the amount of privacy that is possible in the home." (6:108.)

The future of privacy is an object of concern among those who recognize it as being on the wane. As homes are becoming machines for living, as they are sometimes called, "demands on the house in terms of privacy will certainly increase. More area and equipment may be required in order to parallel some activities. In particular, shapes and more complete divisions of functions may be necessary in order that certain of men's activities which are incompatible with children's can go on without conflict." (21:46.) Another contemporary source attributes our "now" demands for privacy to our Puritan and Victorian ideals which persist, combined with modern psychology's encouragement of self-consciousness and self-awareness. (22:3.) Privacy and privateness have a direct relationship "that has been long recognized"; privacy should sustain one's sense of personal identity, relating again the correlation

of privacy and psychological maturation. (22:94.) In addition to these aspects, privacy has other uses besides allowing one to be alone with his own thoughts; it is socially useful "when exploited for its own sake," to escape noise, quarrels, or other pressures. It becomes a symbol of status when certain facilities are reserved for one or very few persons. (22:56-57.)

Privacy in housing is considered one of the most important architectural problems. Kennedy indicated that the tendency in modern architecture is to make fewer and fewer provisions for conventional privacy. Chermayeff stated that each person in a home should have his "innermost sanctum," where no one may intrude. Personal privacy is generally recognized as being the most important kind; however, privacy as a nonpersonal element exists also. Gottlieb added to the necessity of individual privacy that some objects and activities should be secluded, for example, a kitchen full of unwashed dishes. Also concerned with non-individual privacy, one seeks to be out of view from the neighbors, passersby, and even sunlight at times. She logically suggested that recognizing what one wishes to be secluded from makes it easier to post a barrier. (17:161,156.)

The concept of privacy undoubtedly varies with each person; what is privacy to one is not necessarily privacy to another. There are some generally accepted terms of measure for privacy; often these are classified as being tolerable rather than desired. Privacy of being heard but not seen, privacy of not being seen or heard, and privacy of

not being seen, heard, or sensed are three measures of privacy stated by Kira. Kennedy defined the degrees of privacy as being utter privacy, or freedom from being seen, heard, or seeing or hearing others. Concentrated work, rest, excreting, emotional regeneration, and lovemaking are activities requiring utter privacy. Freedom from being seen is valuable for regeneration and thought. Privacy from guests is the third measurement of privacy given. Inference was that this is more recognized in the western United States than elsewhere, since separate guests' quarters are frequent. (21:97.) Kate Ellen Rogers, author of The Modern House, U. S. A., recognized only visual privacy as a measurement for privacy.

Privacy plays a large and important part in connection with sociology and the social structure. Essentially, privacy is "the exclusion of others, and for this four walls do not suffice . . . it calls for a reduction of social stimulation altogether, and that includes stimulation from one's own family or the sounds of their activities." (16:356.)

Kira contributed the thought that "perhaps the most obvious social component of privacy is that of role and relationship." Obviously, sex, age, and relationship form breaks; exceptions are physicians, and those who would see us in other professional situations. (22:96.) Concerning social scale and privacy, there is the general idea that the higher one ascends the social ladder, the more privacy he considers necessary. Kennedy directly stated "the degree of privacy sur-

rounding the various living functions increases as one goes up the social scale. This is particularly true where guests are concerned." (21:191.) Svend Riemer, noted sociologist at the University of California at Berkeley, reported, "Investigation reveals that some social groups desire more privacy than others." (28:138.) He asserted that "middle class families are apt to require more privacy while a manual laborer's family may be inconvenienced by lack of spaciousness in the individual room." (29:273.) Kira reported that in the upper end of the social scale, "privacy demands are carried to what may well be their ultimate conclusion: a total privacy which can then be manipulated for a variety of purposes." Treating life as an art, affording private bedrooms, bathrooms and sitting rooms, seems to result in "good breeding," when persons are fully prepared when they come together. The demands for privacy have been said to be based on a sense of aesthetics in Kira's study. For instance, the group most aesthetically inclined, the highest socio-economic class, indicated the greatest desire for compartmented bathrooms, although they probably had the least need for them. (22:96.) Svend Riemer stated that, "home situations like child care, sleeping arrangements, and housework do not vary much with social status, but that people in higher income brackets do become used to more space as well as privacy." (29:276.) The upper class demands for privacy seem to hold this value in connection with leisure time activities, also. Beyer stated where there was orientation toward leisure, design would probably provide privacy areas for reading or listening to music.

Television viewing and resting also suggest privacy, or at least quiet. (10:290, 300.) It is generally known that this need for privacy may be frustrated in overcrowded conditions in the home. Riemer ventured to say that the lack of adequate leisure time facilities could be conducive to delinquency, even criminal activities. Another adverse effect was the increase of nervous tension. (29:278.) Overcrowding, and resulting lack of privacy seemed to range in importance from critical to irritating. The spread of epidemics and fires were the chief physical hazards of these conditions, and the possible decrease of morality was the main psychological threat. Aronovici maintained that privacy and comfort within the home increases morality and looked disparagingly at "the lodger evil," fostered by high rents that forced families to take in non-family roomers, thus lessening privacy. Less crucial but widely felt was his view that:

the lack of privacy has led many individuals to seek their recreation and recuperation outside of the home, while the courting of young men and women has been taken from the home into the park, the moving-picture theatre, the restaurant.... The whole question of family life and its significance as a social force has been affected by the congestion and lack of comfort in the home. (6:15,16.)

Values in privacy in housing have been researched to a degree. In Houses Are for People, a Cornell University research study, the personal value group of families valued strict privacy and quiet for sleeping and dressing activities; for leisure and entertaining, this group valued a "room with privacy for study, music, or reading." (8:18.) Agan cited that families valuing mental health had a pronounced desire

for privacy, and that persons with a dominant sense of freedom desired privacy to permit a choice of action. Also important to the personal value group is the exterior of the home, where private outdoor living is considered an important item. Returning the problem to design, Riemer stated that "home design can express different values. It may emphasize either privacy for sleeping purposes, the recreational life in the home or its function as a household laboratory." (29:275.) The question of privacy is subtle because it involves social values. Zoning, discussed later on, enters into value interpretation and largely determines private areas in housing design.

CHAPTER III

FAMILY PRIVACY NEEDS

In addition to space needs for family and individual activities, designers need to consider privacy needs in planning houses and interiors. Since the needs of individuals and of families for privacy may be varied, the extent of such variance needs to be explored. Differences in family privacy needs are due to the uniqueness of individuals making up each family unit. Requirements for individuals for privacy should be used if designers are to execute designs to meet the requirements for living in a more adequate manner. The report of the President's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership, called by President Hoover in 1932, stated:

There should be adequate provision for privacy for each member of the family. Each child should have a place where he can be undisturbed and quiet, and have opportunity for uninterrupted study of home lessons or for reading or play. (34:177.)

The house has the power to inhibit or foster family relationships to the extent to which family members can congregate or separate. Livability in the home is enhanced when these two freedoms are insured by privacy from without and from within. Some families and their members are less desirous of privacy than others.

The sentiment of self-respect, the respect for self as an individual with status, can hardly thrive when the person is continuously open to pressures of the presence of many others in the household. Privacy is needed for thinking, reflection, reading and study, and for aesthetic enjoyment and contemplation. Intrusions on the fulfillment of personal

desires need to be shut off in order to avoid the internal tensions that are built up from the frustrations, resentments, and irritations of continual multiple contacts with others. (11:165.)

Gottlieb agreed with Chapin in considering privacy in the selection of a dwelling:

In choosing a dwelling the requirements of space and privacy must be thoroughly considered.... Insufficient space and lack of privacy may be very irritating to some.... (17:78.)

Some information relative to the particular privacy needs of individuals and of the family as a unit is available. Kennedy cited some differences in privacy needs in The House and Art of Its Design:

...a bachelor living in a single room and eating in restaurants has very different needs as far as privacy is concerned from the father of a young family. The bachelor may get too much privacy and be forced to seek companionship, sex, and the like outside his home.

The father on the other hand may have a higher tolerance for noise, but because he can get little privacy in the normal course of events, may have to seek that state as consciously as the bachelor seeks to avoid it.

A study of personal and family values evidenced in the choice of a home was made at Cornell University in 1946. Fifty families from upper, middle, and lower class groups, were given a values test which consisted of repeated statements of preference in choosing a dwelling. The values of beauty, comfort, convenience, good location, health, personal interest, privacy, safety, friendship activities, and economy were rated. Preferences were ranked in order of number of times each value was chosen. The importance of privacy and what it means to the families interviewed is quoted below:

The item receiving the most attention by all groups was provision for individual rooms. In a number of instances, the small amount of space did not allow each individual of the family to have his own room. This was particularly true in the lower class families. In these cases, the writer suggested that each person have a box in which to keep his valuables, and that no one else be allowed to look in or use the box. The suggestion was also made that a dresser drawer be allowed each person where only his things be kept.

In a middle class family where a mother-in-law made her home, the husband said he had made a small apartment in the attic for his mother so that she could be by herself when she wanted to, and they all agreed that this plan had helped them to live with a minimum of friction during the five years that the plan had been operating.

Upper class and middle class people feel that extra rooms and baths are essential to provide well for privacy, and three upper class families indicated a need for separate quarters for domestic help. These matters were of no concern to the lower class.

All groups evinced an interest in having some privacy from neighbors. But in considering privacy they said they wanted to be far enough away from their neighbors to allow as much noise making as they wanted without causing complaint.

As this brief discussion shows, for the three classes there are different shades of meaning for privacy that must be considered. (14:95,96.)

Privacy "in its simplest form involves 'aloneness,' or freedom from the presence and demands of others." Privacy is as important as the need for security, for it is basic "to the development, and maintenance of a strong personal identity....in a conceptual as well as an operational sense." Privacy, along with 'aloneness,' also connotes "the conception of possession....of space, time, and property." (22:94.) Privacy needs of individual members are likely to vary according to age and status within the family. Dorothy Field related that infants need a private space for isolation and quiet. Toddlers need private space "free from nagging" to learn by trial and error; school children need a

private area for the storage of their treasures. Adolescents need "a place to retire for privacy." Fathers need a place that is free from interruption: the author suggests a study. Mothers, perhaps needing privacy most, have no private space specified. (15:12.) The bedroom will probably have to be resorted to for her seclusion. Consequently, the characteristics of the family, the interactions of its members, and individual needs usually determine the amount of privacy that is desired.

The presence of children exerts new pressures on the house and family. (21:58.) Children's needs for privacy may vary with age and relationship to parents and siblings. Rogers declared:

...most authorities feel that the young child and even the baby should have his own room, but that his room should be close to his parents' room for convenience and safety. (31:20.)

Parents usually train their children in the rites of privacy from infancy. The child learns each day to be alone with his thoughts and his toys. (21:271.) The toddler may spend most of the day in his mother's presence, but he needs a place of his own to play alone if he wishes, and to sleep. The space provided for the child, Mumford thought, should allow for more than sleeping and dressing. He asserted that, "no housing standard is adequate that provides only cubicles . . . for the child, or forces him into the constant company of adults." He also recommended separate sleeping wings for parents and children. (24:432.) Chermayeff, alluding to Mumford, agreed that the child needs room for play, retreat, study, and privacy, other than his bed. Kennedy believed that the eight

year old needs more privacy than a younger child. The ten year old needs still more privacy because of the beginning of sex characteristics and secrets. Riesman, in discussion of personality directions of children, stated that inner direction of the child is forced upon him by family pressure and social and spatial arrangements. "The conversation between parents and children interrupted by the social distance that separates them, is continued by the child with himself in private." (30:61.) He blamed the lack of privacy in homes as contributing to the outer direction of children, stating:

Home, moreover, is no longer an area of solid privacy. As the size and living space of the family diminish and as the pattern of living with older relatives declines, the child must directly face the emotional tensions of his parents. There is a heightening of awareness of the self in relation to others under these conditions, especially since the parents, too, are increasingly self-conscious. (30:67.)

Riesman introduced the theory of a new, detrimental type of privacy that may exist in lower class homes. Because of the probable lack of spatial privacy, there might occur a psychic privacy borne out of lack of interest of parent in child. (30:71.) Optimal privacy for children would probably exclude psychic privacy, but allow freedom for visual and accoustical privacy or both for each child in the family from his parents and brothers and sisters.

The adolescent has different privacy needs than the child. He represents "a strange cross between adult and child. His particular problem is to become an adult both physically and emotionally." (31:20.) Because of bodily changes that may cause embarrassment, and periodic

emotional instability, it is strongly advised that the adolescent have a place of his own. (22:95.) It is widely felt that the adolescent can mature more gracefully if he can withdraw at will from younger and older family members. Rogers felt that, aside from his own place, the adolescent needed space where he could entertain his friends without adult interference. Kennedy warned that teenage entertainment, though necessary, may be boisterous, noisy, and destructive. Exactly why obstreperous behavior in teenagers occurs is the subject of much discussion. Young people's energies must be vented, just as their emotions; to demand silence in this period of intense feelings could be harmful to maturation.

Privacy may be considered one of the strongest elements contributing to the maturation of young people. However, the freedom with which the potential adult can socialize with other members of the family is equally important. Kennedy also related this need:

The rejection-acceptance cycle (of children to parents) is only one reason for an individual's need of a certain amount of privacy and a certain amount of companionship. Privacy and sympathetic personal contact are regenerative, and help us consolidate our knowledge. (21:93.)

A study of the needs of 265 families with children in Kansas in 1952 sought to help architects, extension agents, and others in planning and arranging the location and sizes of farm house rooms for better utilization. Analysis of leisure-time activities of family members revealed that seventy-three per cent of elementary school children and seventy per cent of the adolescents interviewed wanted privacy in their

leisure time. Activities pursued in privacy were reading, studying, listening to the radio, playing, or making things; no order of preference was given. There was no correlation of children's ages and preference of private activities. Because of the lack of neighborhood playmates, children usually entertained each other as overnight guests, no oftener than once a month. The child usually shared his bedroom with his guest. The children usually played near adults, but thirty-seven per cent stayed more or less by themselves. Forty-two per cent of the girls sought privacy, but ages of the girls, and where privacy was sought was omitted. (19:22,23.)

Household privacy for parents is more concerned with privacy from children than from each other. Literature on this subject recommended that each person have his own place for sleeping except for husbands and wives, who were expected to share sleeping and personal hygiene facilities. Field suggested that the father have a private place to relax after work, however, and suggested a study. Perhaps mothers' needs often are neglected because there is no "after work" for her. Kennedy sensed her need for privacy and stated, "mothers of young children are subject to continuous pressure from the family as a whole . . . thus (she) has a greater need for withdrawal. " (21:82.)

The ease with which parents can withdraw from their children may contribute to their personal harmony. As privacy has been deemed necessary for the maturation of an individual, it seems logical that it is

also necessary for the maturation and development of an intimate relationship between two people. Mumford felt very strongly about personal privacy, and wrote:

Private bedrooms alone are not enough: soundproof partitions are equally important and in communal units soundproof floors.... Even at some extra cost in corridor space the architect must learn in house and apartment design to separate the children's wing from the adult's wing. (24:432.)

Kennedy agreed with Mumford on the absolute necessity of parental privacy and quoted the above passage. He added to Mumford's ideas, saying that,

Because the bedroom is the most logical place in which to be private, it is more than a mere sleeping compartment. It tends to become a sort of private living room. (21:273.)

Having grandparents or other older people in the home occurs less frequently than it once did. Research has been done on housing for the aged, and some recommendations for their comfort and privacy have been made. Rogers asserted that a retirement house for an elderly couple would require only two interior doors, one for the bathroom, and one for the bedroom. Grandparents living in their children's home, however, might feel a definite lack of privacy if there were but two doors. Privacy for elderly people in the home must surely be planned. Older people dream of the past just as young people dream of the future, and privacy for both should be equally afforded. The family's pace is probably faster than the older person's, particularly if there are young children. Grandparents living in the home often babysit with

their grandchildren when the parents are away. This usually is a satisfactory situation, but privacy needs of youngsters and oldsters will make them unhappy roommates. (31:21.) The paces of children and elderly people are presumably incompatible, but relationships between them will probably be satisfactory if each feels free to come and go as he chooses. The elderly person will probably need a place in which to retire from the hurly-burly of the family for solitude and regeneration. The President's Conference in 1932 recommended that "old people should have a quiet sunny room to which they may withdraw if they desire. (34:177.)

The demands an elderly person might make on a household were described by Kennedy:

When a grandparent comes to live with the family, demands on the house in terms of privacy, passive recreation, work patterns, and the like are apt to increase incalculably....

The grandparents' apartment itself, for ideally it should be that rather than just a room, must usually meet three characteristic demands: comfort, plus one's own possessions; privacy, but fit for entertaining; and it should be easy to get around in. (21:89-91.)

If there are domestic servants in the home, need for privacy is more acute between servant and family than between family and grandparent or other relative. Although domestic servants are not as numerous as they once were, some households still employ them. Servants living in the home require more privacy than daytime help. There should be separate rooms for each servant except in the case of the employed married couple. There should be at least one bathroom provided for the servants' uses exclusively. A small dressing room and place to clean up in are suggested as being sufficient. (34:180.) In addition to space

for changing clothes and washing in, Kennedy recommended that the servant have a separate toilet and a separate place to eat and rest. (21:92.)

Family life is usually affected by the presence of guests in the home. Privacy is important when a guest whom the family wishes to impress visits. ". . . we must have . . . a reception area that is ready to receive the unexpected and unfamiliar visitor.... When they are expected, we can arrange the family schedule to secure privacy--even if it means sending a child off to spend the night with a friend." (18:46.) Kennedy felt that the family reacts to guests as though it were in public view, and restrains its actions accordingly. (21:96.) The way guests are received often determines how their privacy needs will be met. Inviting guests into a room to remove their wraps may indicate some measure of formality. It will permit them to have some privacy for preparation for the visit. (32:75.) On the other hand, if an uninvited person calls and is not asked to come in or to remove his coat, he may sense his intrusion into family privacy is undesirable.

The atmosphere in rooms used for receiving in the home may influence the behavior of family members and guests. If other family members are present or pursuing other activities, the visit may seem constrained, whereas a closed or intimate atmosphere may be conducive to easy conversation. The amount of privacy afforded visitor and host during a visit may largely influence the conversation between them. Privacy ought to be obtainable if the nature of a visit is private. Rooms free from family interruption may be hard to come by, especially

if there are young children, but a place for personal conferences is needed in the home. It is assumed that, at some time, each member of the family will have occasion to confer privately with another member, or someone outside the family circle. The room provided for private conversation, then, ideally would be accessible for all family members to use when an occasion rises, if they choose to use it.

In planning for family privacy needs, each individual member ideally would have a place of his own. Privacy needs for rest, relaxation, and regeneration should be met as well as requirements for less passive activity. Adequate private space would probably house the necessary materials for any activities one might wish to perform alone.

CHAPTER IV

THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PRIVACY IN INTERIOR DESIGN

The achievement of privacy in a dwelling is determined in part by its orientation on the lot. An American Public Health Association publication, Planning the Home for Occupancy, stated, "The dwelling should be shielded from threats to comfort and privacy.... Living rooms, dining spaces, and bedrooms should not face busy streets, playgrounds, or parking areas.... Bedroom windows should be so located in relation to adjacent dwellings, public walks and other public spaces as to prevent a direct view into the room." In stating some principles for zoning within dwelling areas, the publication dictates that "rooms requiring quiet should not adjoin sources of noise either inside or outside the building. Bedrooms should be away from thoroughfares, and in apartments, should not adjoin the neighbor's bathroom. The dwelling should be arranged to minimize any direct view into bedrooms or bathrooms from outdoors or from the windows of adjacent buildings." (5:16.) Kennedy gave several reasons for locating the bedrooms in the rear of a dwelling:

...the combinations of hazards to sleep from noise, headlights, peeping Toms, and street lights, suggest that bedrooms should face away from streets if at all possible.
(21:268.)

Additional solutions for the achievement of privacy in dwellings have been attempted through interior zoning, construction, and space design. People of ancient civilizations divided their homes into private and

public areas; modern houses are likewise divided into these areas as well as others. Kennedy cited several reasons for zoning: larger and more complex areas that are dedicated to one purpose have greater emotional impact, and are more likely to be used in the way intended. Secondly, to be seen and to see in a socially unacceptable circumstance is least embarrassing in properly connected physical space. Also, construction of dwellings is said to be cheaper and easier. (21:115,116.)

One requisite for effective zoning is private circulation from zone to zone.

...each room in relation to other rooms, should permit efficient circulation which affords privacy, since privacy depends not only on the amount of structural separation but on traffic within the dwelling.... The ideal arrangement permits access to all parts of the house and to the exterior entrance from each room without passing through any other room. (5:45.)

The privacy of individual family members depends on their freedom from intrusion by other family members and guests. Traffic within the dwelling should be channeled so that each area is reachable without intrusion into other than the designated area. Access to rooms that may be shut off from the rest of the family group is needed to avoid one or all of these intrusions, as well as to provide a place for the desired intimacies of more private pair-groups. (11:165.) This situation would allow privacy for the individual within an area as well as privacy for one in transit. Halls or corridors usually form the circulation routes in dwellings. "Ease of circulation within the dwelling relieves cramped muscular conditions and attendant irritations. It facilitates the

normal performance of family functions, an easy flow of sequences of overt behavior without interruptions to freedom of movement or unwanted and unexpected intrusions on a train of thought. It permits free choice of face-to-face contacts, especially of pair-groups with no third party intervening." (11:167.) Planning the Home for Occupancy contained certain principles for circulation planning: "Entrances, porches, public halls, and stairs should be planned to insure adequate circulation and access from outdoors. Rooms should be so planned that essential circulation within the dwelling and to the outdoors does not interfere with activities requiring privacy. If a living room is used for sleeping, it cannot be used as the entrance." (5:46,47.) Entrances to dwellings are the most public circulation areas. If family privacy is to be insured against traffic and noise, entrances will serve to protect the private zones from public intrusion. There should be a specific place to welcome visitors before ushering them into the midst of family activities; the same place could be used to protect family privacy from unwelcome callers. (32:72.) The living room, Kennedy reported, "should not be an entrance, nor should it be sandwiched between . . . areas and used as a passage." (21:200.) In critical appraisal questions for determining the amount of privacy in house plans, Chermayeff asked, "is there an entry 'lock' to give the house as a whole an adequate buffer zone against intrusion?" (12:209.) Optimally, the entrance would then be separated from the living rooms to insure privacy for those within the dwelling and for those entering.

Kennedy divided dwellings into five zones: public, social, operative, semi-private, and private. The public zone serves as a "buffer between the world and the family, and thus needs more privacy from the rest of the house than it does from the rest of the world." The social zone is "where the family gathers by itself, . . . as a unit, private from the rest of the world. The fact that it is where the world is entertained or met does not lessen its demand on group privacy." The operative zone is semi-private to guests, who may enter it with more ease as they and the family become better acquainted; it is the servants' domain, if there are any, and must be planned for their privacy. The semi-private zone is "well into the most private areas, not only of the family as a whole, but of cultural categories." The author did not clarify his statement, but one may assume that the cultural position of a family might determine to what extent the semi-private zone is private from guests and family members, or perhaps that privacy needs vary with different cultures. The private zone is reserved for those functions which "would seem to demand the most complete possible privacy, operational as well as physical." (21:116-120.) Activities of the private zone, some of which are resting, thinking, reading, studying, writing letters, telephoning, playing records, or sleeping, are usually performed alone. (1:78.) Other activities include quiet hobbies, dressing, bathing, and other personal hygiene functions. (15:20.)

Private activities are most successfully performed in an atmosphere free from abrupt or unnecessary interruptions. It follows that

the achievement of privacy and quietness generally complement each other. Two of the three basic psychological needs that Field asserted that a house must satisfy in each family member are privacy and quiet; the third is activity. (15:20.) Agan reported that the private zone is usually the quiet zone, but that it can fulfill semi-private or semi-public functions as well. (1:84.) If privacy is not obtainable, quiet is preferred for such leisure time activities as reading, resting, listening to records or the radio, or watching television. (10:290,291.) In section 13 of Planning the Home for Occupancy, "Provisions for Privacy and Personal Satisfaction," it is stated that, "Quiet is as important as privacy . . . for undisturbed sleep, rest, reading, or study." Field asserted that, to meet requirements of privacy, activity, and quiet, there ought to be permanently settled space where one can romp, rest, or be alone. Although she stated this can be achieved in an area 24' by 24', she did not include a plan. (15:17.)

If zoning is to permit incompatible activities to go on at the same time, barriers must be erected within the dwelling to secure privacy for those activities so that each can go on undisturbed by the other. Privacy as well as protection from noise is essential. (5:46.) Rogers stated, "many of the methods used to create quiet are also used to achieve privacy: visual, sound, and privacy from entrance." (31:172.) Sound and privacy barriers can be permanent or temporary. Gottlieb suggested that visual privacy from the outside can be achieved by using draperies, panels, louvers, or planting. Some types of fences could be

added to this list. Riemer stated that sliding doors, rolling leather partitions, Venetian blinds, and glass partitions will change space to privacy and vice versa when desired. Rogers mentioned the drapery as a means for reducing vision and sound. Storage areas, draperies, rugs, and heavy curtains deaden sound. Double, unconnected walls that form air pockets rather than single partitions were also suggested for that purpose, as were heater rooms, store rooms, utility rooms and closets. (21:133,154.)

Individual and family privacy depends upon freedom from intrusion, freedom from being seen, and freedom from being heard. Carefully planned circulation routes within the dwelling reduce the chances for intrusion into one's privacy. Various insulation materials, methods, and partitions serve to afford more visual and accoustical privacy. Yet, additional security for privacy is needed. The security of having "enough structurally separated rooms, dependent on family size, should be provided to insure privacy; some solitude should be possible for everyone, and a room of one's own is desirable." (5:47.) The importance of bedroom privacy cannot be underrated. It ranks with bath as an area where privacy is a requirement. (10:291.)

Privacy in Bedrooms

Bedrooms are usually the rooms sought for privacy, solitude, and rest. They "should be so located that they are protected against disturbance from other rooms" (5:46.) Rogers stated that the chief requirements of a bedroom are privacy, quiet, and good ventilation.

(31:169.) Uses for bedrooms, in addition to being places for undressing, resting, and sleeping, reveal that they might be used as private living rooms, (21:273.), workshops for hobbies, and places for play and entertainment. Bedrooms are also places where one can get away from it all, let one's hair down, and have a good cry. (18:47.) It is believed that functions of bedroom spaces change with each activity that takes place within them. Some activities may require more privacy than quiet; others, more quiet than privacy, and still others, the maximum security of both. To plan for the most complete privacy, then, is to insure that whichever of the privacies sought can be obtained. To do this, bedrooms should be located so that they are protected from other rooms in the dwelling. That one should not have to pass through a bedroom to reach another room is essential in planning for privacy. (4:198.) There ought to be privacy between bedrooms and the bathroom, also. Beyer echoed the President's Conference standard that "privacy should be provided by having each bedroom reached without passing through any other bedroom," (34:177.) by stating that, "privacy is assured between bedrooms and bath (if) each bedroom shall have access to a bathroom without passing through another bedroom or habitable room." (9:204.) Particularly, bedrooms should be withdrawn from the social areas in the house; each room should be accessible by a hall, and protected from outside noise. Sufficient separation from the living areas would seem to insure privacy. Rogers suggested locating bedrooms as far from the street as possible. (31:170.) Bedroom windows and doors should be planned to insure privacy from inside

and outside. Kennedy felt that the present types of windows poorly meet the standards for desired visual privacy, ventilation, and rain exclusion. He suggested windows "with fixed lights of glass with louvered screened vents below it" as a solution. (21:267.)

Successful bedroom planning also ought to meet the requirements for privacy and personal enjoyment. Kennedy stated:

There would seem no more appropriate place to get exactly the personal peccadillos, no matter how wild, that one has always wanted. A bed with a view, a bathtub one can open into a garden, a private place to sun. . . the expression of a certain mood conducive to the enjoyment of privacy, and similar purely personal desires should somehow get into the bedroom plan. (21:275.)

That marital privacy is important to the well-being of husband and wife is obvious. Bedrooms for this privacy should be an essential part of any dwelling design. The parental bedroom is different from other bedrooms within the dwelling. Their sleeping space ought to have elements of control. "A cry in the night must be answered. It should not be too far from the children's rooms. Nor, millions of parents will exclaim, should it be too near." Gutheim stated that more thought ought to be given to marital privacy. Locks and positive soundproofing to bar outside noises and retain inside noises are necessary. Kennedy's views conflicted with Gutheim's. He felt that sound should not escape the bedroom, but that noises from children or the aged should be allowed in, by mechanical means or open doors. (21:124.) Mumford advocated further separation of rooms:

...every part of the dwelling must be arranged equally with an eye to sexual privacy and untrammelled courtship.... the architect must eventually learn . . . to separate the children's wing from the adult's wing. (24:432.)

Kennedy reported that marital privacy can be secured with locked doors:

Once one has closed the bedroom door, the first need is that of visual privacy for undressing, lovemaking, and sleeping. The first way to design this is to design the door to open in, and in such a way that it comes between the person entering and the bed. A night latch is essential. (21:266.)

Though a night latch may be required to insure marital privacy, latches on other than the master bedroom door would not seem such a good idea for purposes of safety. He further added that a requirement for husband-wife communication is the element of emotional ease, borne out of a balanced diet of privacy and sociability.

Sleeping spaces used by other members of the family ought to afford the degree of privacy wished by each member. Economic conditions permitting, "single sleeping rooms are desirable . . . for all individuals other than husband and wife." (5:39.) Agan suggested that no more than two people should occupy the same bedroom at any time, except for married couples and young children. She added that, "sleeping rooms of children above the age of two years, according to psychiatric opinion, should be separate from those of parents." (11:198.) It is undesirable to have two children--whatever their ages--occupy the same bed. (5:178.) Children of the same sex and approximate ages may share rooms, but American psychologists recommended separate quarters for children of opposite sexes by at least the age of six. It is interesting to note that in England, the separation of sexes for sleeping purposes

is fixed by law at the age of ten. If each child is unable to have his own room, "rooms planned for two boys or two girls should be arranged in such a way that each person can consider the part of the room around his bed more or less his own." (21:269.) Compartmented bedrooms with movable partitions may offer a solution to obtain privacy for sleeping, yet afford space for playing activities during the day. (1:201.) Architect Gregory Ain sought interesting solutions to achieve privacy in an exhibition house. The house designed was a single unit that could be combined with other houses on lots as small as 60' x 120'. Bedroom areas, other than the master bedroom featured sliding walls adjoining them to provide space for indoor play, and privacy for the maturing adolescent if he desired it. (31:131.)

Whatever the sleeping arrangements may be, the bedroom remains the most personal part of the house. A sleeping room for each person is generally desirable. Ideally, it would be planned for the comfort and privacy of those who use it. An eye for comfort will promote privacy; an eye for privacy will prohibit overcrowding. The character of the bedroom may change, but it is essentially a space for sleeping, and should be designed to promote healthful rest.

Privacy in Bathrooms

Privacy in bathroom planning should be the most important criterion in design. Location of bathrooms within dwellings is usually done in regard to privacy and accessibility. While the number of bathroom facilities in a dwelling might influence their accessibility, the

importance of privacy would probably remain the same. Housing for Health, an American Public Health Association publication, stated a principle in the location of bathroom facilities:

...fundamental habits of decency demand that toilets, bathrooms, and bedrooms should be accessible from halls or living rooms without passing through other bedrooms or bathrooms. (4:198.)

Planning the Home for Occupancy pointed up an exception to the above by stating that in a small apartment, it would be permissible to have the bathroom open from the bedroom. The report on the President's Conference in 1932, in the discussion of bathroom privacy in apartments, stated that in multiple dwellings each family should have its separate bathroom and toilet within the apartment. Kennedy viewed the bathroom as being presently unsatisfactory in privacy and design:

The location of the fixtures and of the spaces which contain them and the circulation patterns between these spaces must be governed by the privacy requirements of the combination of functions involved. In the average house, these activities are so compartmented, and privacy is lent such an air of prudery that pleasure in them is materially reduced. The bathroom is usually too small and dark. . . . The idea that a bath can be a regenerative experience, that the body has dignity and beauty, that the excretory functions can be satisfying, is seldom expressed. (21:246.)

The primary uses of the bathroom relate to personal hygiene. In our culture, as a result of modesty, Victorian prudery, and sexual linkage, a private atmosphere is usually desired for the carrying out of hygiene routines. The separation of hygiene facilities on the basis of sex is evidenced in men's and women's restrooms. Here, complete privacy from members of the opposite sex is more important than limited privacy from

strangers of the same sex. Exceptions are, of course, in the home where married couples and young children do not always observe the rules.

Kira stated:

. . . however, if the bathroom is shared by members of the family, the tendency is to respect both the sexual segregation and privacy for elimination functions.

Apparently, some hygiene functions require less privacy than others.

For example, activities requiring the use of the lavatory would not usually require the amount of privacy desired for using the toilet or the bath tub. Privacy is rarely a requirement for men while shaving, and young children usually like to watch. Brushing the teeth, applying makeup, and arranging the hair would seem to require little privacy.

The bathroom is often used as an area for doing hand laundry. The seclusion of undergarments hanging up to dry might be desirable.

(22:56,82,85.) Kira reported that manicuring and pedicuring are private functions, because they are "relatively disagreeable."

Attitudes toward bathing and bathing facilities have often been cited as indicators of the standards of living in past civilizations. Bathing was once a public social activity as well as a personal hygiene function. Kira stated:

With respect to public baths, there is another significant point which must be made: privacy for bathing or for personal hygiene in all its aspects, appears to be a fairly recent phenomenon.

Heretofore, from Roman Empire days, bathing and other hygiene functions were often public activities, sometimes communal, sometimes family wide. Mumford reported that the first private bath was built in the thirteenth

century. (24:47.) It should be remembered that some societies follow the practice of public bathing today. Scandinavian and Japanese bath houses have women attendants for both sexes, and families still bathe together in some parts of the world.

The evolution of the modern American bath was related by Professor Kira:

During the great wave of urbanization of the last century. . . . family privacy became difficult to achieve. When (bathroom) facilities first came to be permanently installed, they were to a large extent communal, i.e., the single bath at the end of the hall serving several families, or the toilet tucked into a found space under the stairs and used by all the occupants. . . . We thus came, in time to hold that every family or household unit ought to have its own facilities and privacy. . . . (22:3.)

Today, bathing is usually regarded in this country as a private, individual function. Operational privacy is sought to avoid shame and embarrassment--the outer directed responses--for instance when the wrong person walks into the bathroom accidentally. However, Kennedy reported that, "many families see no need of privacy among themselves where bathing is concerned." (21:242.) He added that, on the other hand, "convention demands that, under circumstances, bath taking shall be private. Houses must afford the possibility of privacy." He acknowledged the necessity for privacy from the outside as being universal. Windows must be curtained. Limited privacy for bathing may be achieved by the use of shower curtains or sliding doors. In a compartmented bathroom, "a door with a thumb latch to the space where the tub is located is sufficient." (22:248,249.)

Use of the toilet is generally regarded as being the most private activity performed by an individual. Kira stated that lack of privacy, ranging from using the crowded public toilet to having a spouse wander in the bathroom, inhibits proper elimination. It was usually acknowledged that one should be able to lock the door if he chose. Accoustical privacy is perhaps more important for elimination than for other bathroom functions. That noises from using the toilet are sources of embarrassment is obvious in the ways that are sought to cover them up, such as by running water in the lavatory. Kennedy noted that flushing the water closet added nothing to life at any time.

Solutions for achieving privacy in the bathroom have been attempted through location of the space, the fixtures within the space, and construction surrounding the space. Location of the bathroom away from the social areas of the house seems desirable. Beyer stated:

It should not be possible to view the bathroom from the living portion of the house. It generally is undesirable to have a bathroom opening into two adjoining rooms.
(10:282.)

Great care should be taken in the selection of bathroom fixtures. Toilets particularly should be chosen for their quietness. Pipes from the fixtures should be well insulated. Kennedy recommended wrapping them in a fibrous blanket and tough paper. Taking care to insure visual privacy in the bathroom tended to eliminate regular windows and to favor high window vents or skylights. Windows near the tub were not advised because of chances for drafts. Instead, Rogers recommended locating them on either side of the lavatory or dressing table. Having the door

to the bathroom open in with the toilet located behind it insured some visual privacy. Rogers reported, "privacy for the bathroom means visual and accoustical privacy both on entering and within the room." (31:179.) Isolation of bathrooms by storage walls is ideal. Rogers also suggested the use of accoustical tile for ceilings, insulation for toilet pipes, and weatherstripping for the door. Kira reported that compartmented bathrooms are "widely regarded as a means of securing greater privacy." They preserve a measure of individual privacy while allowing various fixtures to be used at the same time. Some factors determining the amount of privacy provided are the entrance to a section, whether partitions extend from ceiling to floor, (22:94.) and what materials the partitions are made of. (31:181.) Rogers related that, in order to make the bath really useful to more than one person at the same time, there should be two or more doors into the space. Duplication of facilities might secure more individual privacy. Beyer suggested the addition of a half-bath to alleviate congestion at peak periods of use. It would also permit guests the use of other than the family bathroom. Kira stated that a greater number of individual facilities is needed for privacy in today's overcrowded average home. He contended:

The standard bathroom (5' by 7' - three fixture), however, is a carryover from. . .the first private bathrooms, and they obviously were conceived of a minimum conveniences. . . . The average bathroom today is barely distinguishable from one built forty years ago. (22:5.)

Our various privacy requirements are "perhaps the single most important aspect" of the ultimate makeup and distribution of personal

hygiene facilities. Kira reported that, in the majority of American homes, it is the only place one can go to sulk, cry, daydream, or escape his social role. (22:95.) If this statement is true, bathroom privacy takes on an even more important dimension in providing the individual with a space that will enable him to better face himself.

Privacy in Living Areas

Living areas, generally thought of as the social areas of the dwelling, also provide the family with a space for gathering privately as a unit. Spaces for family use usually center around leisure time activities which may include the whole family, part of the family, or family members and guests. It follows that adequate family living space "must be organized to provide a suitable gathering space for members of the household and their guests." (3:17.) Gatherings not including all of the family members should not disturb those excluded. The living area of a dwelling ideally would be separated from private quarters and also separated from the public entrance, to avoid disturbance from callers or other household members. Some privacy may be desired in a living area, although generally speaking, accoustical privacy may be more desirable here than visual privacy. The leisure time activities that might be enjoyed in a living area--reading, visiting, listening to the radio, record player, or playing games--seem to demand quiet rather than seclusion. Gottlieb suggested "an out-of-the-way spot (as being) the logical choice to insure some privacy. . .a corner of the room. . ." for a reading area. (17:195.)

Tyler Stewart Rogers, author of Build Your House to Suit Yourself, suggested a room for privacy that would be the antithesis of a living room. The purpose of the "seclusion room," as he called it, would be to provide privacy--visual and accoustical--for any family member who wished to use the room. The seclusion room, he reported, would be a haven for some family members while others were entertaining in the living area. It could be used for leisure time activities requiring quiet that would otherwise be in the living area. Studying, reading, writing, or conversing a deux could be carried on successfully in the seclusion room. To prevent this room from becoming a second social area, Rogers advised making it small--just large enough for one to work and for two to converse. Suitable furnishings for the room included a desk and a chair, a lounge for napping, and a comfortable reading chair with a good light. Uses of the room were indicated by the furnishings: office work, study, domestic affairs, private conversation. The seclusion room might be used as an emergency guest room. Rogers supported his theory of the necessity of seclusion and stated, "The need for such a room grows with the trend toward opening up the other living areas into one more or less continuous space." (32:69-71.) Kennedy felt that at present our rooms are not very well planned for living activities. He did not condemn open planning, but he thought that lack of livability was due to confusing living activities with rooms. To plan a living area that successfully meets the needs of the family, the architect or designer would have to consider the activities to be performed within the area and the degree

of privacy required for their successful performance. If there are incompatible activities to be carried on in the same space, the activities might be grouped accordingly, with barriers erected to provide the necessary amount of privacy. (21:108.)

Dining areas are often included in living areas of today's homes as a feature of open planning. Dining is an activity for which some families may wish privacy, and open living-dining areas would seem to ignore this wish. Kennedy reported, "the dining spaces should be as private as the family feels. . . meals are ritualistic to the family, and the guest, particularly if uninvited, makes the family somewhat ill at ease, as though privacy had been invaded." If the family dines outside the area where food is prepared, he asserted that more service is necessary to insure privacy. It was unclear as to what he wishes privacy from, but he notes that "the extra energy required by privacy is slight." (21:227-228.)

The home that is designed for livability will probably extend its bounds outside the structure of the dwelling. Outdoor living is a facet of American life that is widely enjoyed. The choice of a homesite may be determined by the importance a family places on outdoor recreation with privacy from neighbors, and privacy from community. Kennedy asserted that lower densities made privacy less important. Gottlieb suggested that hilly terrains afforded privacy for the homesite. She warned against too much privacy, however, as giving little opportunity for companionship, particularly for small children. In commenting on

rural living, she declared: "There are fewer services. One must be more self-sustaining, but there is more privacy." (17:80.) If a rural home-site is not chosen, the feeling of privacy may be enhanced by intelligent planting to further the distances between structures. With buildings in close proximity to each other, outdoor areas away from the street are desirable for family privacy. Front lawns are wasted areas because they are too private for the public and not private enough for the family. (17:162.) Atrium houses or houses with enclosed courtyards might afford outdoor privacy if the lot does not. Gottlieb contended that walled in patios furnish "true privacy." Rogers suggested still another possibility for outdoor privacy:

. . .there may be private spaces for the individual, namely the bedroom garden that complements the sleeping quarters and the garden bath. . . . It is usually approachable only from the bedroom itself, and a high outside wall insures its privacy. (31:193.)

A Cornell University research study of home buyer motivations in 1955, Houses Are for People, identified a number of socio-psychological value orientations relative to housing design. The four types of value groups--(1) personal, (2) economy, (3) family, (4) prestige--placed decidedly different values on homesites. The "personal value group" considered privacy more important than the other groups. This group desired "large enough lots for outdoor leisure activities" privacy from intrusion. The "economy value group" did not consider outdoor privacy as important as did the other groups. Lots could be small, according to this group because they were unwilling to pay for additional land.

The "family value group" valued outdoor privacy as desirable for children's play areas, space for family activities, and freedom from intrusion. These families were "more disturbed by traffic hazards than other groups." The fourth group, the "prestige value group," seemed to desire privacy rather operational privacy. The country club district was the preferred location, with a landscaped lot featuring borders, terraces, etc., desirable to members of this group. (8:11-23.) Privacy for a service area in the yard was not mentioned as being desirable in any value group. As the study was directed at value orientations, solutions for the achievement of privacy were not included.

In considering the dwelling as a whole, Gottlieb has said, "the most basic function . . . is to create shelter and privacy. . . . Shelter must satisfy a physiological feeling of protection. . . . comfort and warmth." (17:156.) If this were true, privacy would be afforded for each individual in the family and for the family as a unit. Certain areas of the dwelling, the bedroom and bathroom areas, seem to reflect the need of design for individual privacy. The living portions of the home serve to provide space where the family gathers in semi-private or semi-public circumstances. If these areas are to change their privacy status, designers must consider space arrangement to afford privacy if desired. The entrance is the most public area of the dwelling, and to preserve dwelling privacy, should act as the interim from public to private living. The desire for privacy in outdoor living areas may approximate that for indoor living areas. If privacy is desired, there

should be plans for achieving it, some of which have already been mentioned. In effect, privacy, the element of aloneness or seclusion, may be desired more by some people than others. Provisions in design for privacy in a dwelling should satisfy those who consider it important.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The need for privacy in a dwelling was first realized in the separation of public and private rooms. The solar of the English manor house was probably the first "private" room. Dwelling plans in the United States reflect the European heritages of its citizens. During the period of colonization, American homes were built like those that Americans had known in Europe. They afforded visual privacy by the separation of rooms. The further separation of rooms in the Federal and later periods achieved more privacy for those within the dwelling. The inclusion of the corridor, and the concept of space planning for people and for activities in dwellings have probably been the latest developments in the achievement of privacy.

Noise control and the achievement of accoustical privacy have become objectives of design more recently. Efforts to secure accoustical privacy deal not only with the separation of space by partition, as does visual privacy, but with insulation of the separated spaces. Thus visual privacy may be achieved without accoustical privacy. Accoustical privacy may also be achieved without visual privacy, but it is assumed that, within the dwelling, this does not commonly occur.

Planning for privacy in a dwelling involves space design for individual or collective use by family members. Needs for privacy may vary according to families and their members and the activities they may

perform by themselves or as a unit. Social class, age, and status of a member within the family are some variables affecting the importance one might place on the necessity for privacy. In addition, certain personality traits and degree of ambition may also affect one's desire for privacy.

The achievement of privacy in interiors has been attempted through exterior and interior design. Location of homesite orientation and landscape design affect outdoor privacy. Interior privacy deals with the arrangement and separation of spaces for different uses, as well as the insulation of spaces for noise control. In modern housing, the problem of achieving privacy centers on space--or the lack of it. Open planning, used to give the illusion of greater space in today's smaller homes, sacrifices privacy. Planning multi-purpose rooms is often done in ignorance of the fact that the uses of the room may be incompatible if they occur simultaneously. On the other hand, division of space to achieve privacy may result in rooms that are too small for comfort or for varied use.

That privacy is a necessary condition for the well-being of an individual is obvious. As the family dwelling serves as a refuge from the world, adequate dwelling space must give protection to the individual and the family from outside intrusion and from the intrusion of the household itself. Agan and Luchsinger, co-authors of The House summarized the importance of having privacy as follows:

It is in the domestic experience that provisions for rest and the privacy or quiet that gives sense of peace and inner strength are necessary. For centuries privacy was the luxury of the well-to-do; in the 20th century it has become a recognized need, if

not a possession, of the humblest worker. Today when congestion characterizes the housing facilities of most cities and some towns, when rapid transportation, television, and radio lead to numerous contacts, sometimes not of a character sustaining to the ideas and ideals of the family, the very pressure of the numerous stimuli of our own fast-moving and complex world makes provision for privacy of prime importance in housing plans. (1:6.)

Collating information and material on privacy as it relates to family needs in housing design seems to point out that the creation of this element is becoming more important and necessary to the well-being of each individual in the modern world.

It is recognized that privacy is only one of several important considerations in dwelling design. Design for sociability has perhaps been over-emphasized while the element of privacy has often been neglected. The evidence gathered in this study supports the conclusion that the need for privacy, probably more than any other single element in dwelling design, is inextricably related to mental health and individual fulfillment.

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